

# Redstone Rocket

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December 10, 2003

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# Survivor benefits get top priority

Redstone voices heard in Washington  
at Army family action conference

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer  
sandy@htimes.com



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**MAKING THEIR CASE**— Larry Leggett, Army Community Service quality of life program manager, and ACS volunteer Sharon Samuelson were among Redstone's five delegates for the Army Family Action Plan conference in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 17-21.

Better provision for surviving spouses of retired military topped the quality of life issues discussed at the Army's Family Action Plan conference in November. Specifically, to push the age of the Survivors Benefit Plan Social Security offset from age 62 to 72.

"The issue came out of Redstone's AFAP back in February," Larry Leggett, Army Community Service quality of life program manager, said. "It was one of several that were forwarded to higher headquarters. Four of our issues made it to DA, two made it into the top 24 (issues)."

The Survivor's Benefit Plan is a voluntary, annuity-type plan paid monthly by military retirees which pays 55 percent of the servicemember's retirement pay to the surviving spouse prior to age 62 or when Social Security is not yet payable.

"When the survivor hits 62 or starts getting Social Security, the offset drops the benefit to 35 percent," Cindy Anderson, retirement services officer at Redstone, said. "The difference can be several hundred dollars a month lost, depending on what the gross retirement pay is and that has to do with rank, years of service, etc. But as an example, if you were getting 55 percent of \$2,000, that's \$1,110 then it drops to 35, that's only \$700. Four hundred dollars a month is a lot of money."

The age to receive maximum Social Security benefits has increased but the SBP offset is still 62. Redstone's original recommendation was to eliminate the offset altogether. The recommendation at DA level is to delay the offset until age 72 and increase the level of benefits from 35 to 40 percent.

"This is something that will have to go to Congress to be changed," Leggett said.

That's if the DA general officers steering committee agrees with the recommendation. Even then, whether or not a change is enacted depends on the type and amount of resources needed to implement the change.

See **Benefits** on page 11

## 2003 AFAP issues listed

### Top five AFAP conference issues (of the 24 briefed):

1. Survivor Benefit Plan and Social Security offset
2. Mortgage relief for mobilized reserve component servicemembers
3. Death benefits for stillborn infants
4. Lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized servicemembers
5. Mandatory review of weight allowance for permanent change of station moves.

### Four most valuable services:

1. Medical/dental services
2. Army Family Action Plan
3. Army Community Service
4. Commissary.

### Six most critical active AFAP issues:

1. Distribution of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to dependents
2. In-state tuition college tuition
3. Pay table reform
4. Modification of weight allowance table for enlisted personnel
5. Retirement dislocation allowance
6. Inferior household goods shipments.

## Charity drive achieves record for collections

Combined Federal Campaign  
exceeds \$1.86 million so far

Team Redstone has answered the call once again.

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign, which officially ended Nov. 26, collected \$1,867,822 to eclipse its \$1.6 million goal. AMCOM/Team Redstone workers contributed \$661,086 against a \$605,551 goal.

These were the numbers as of Thursday.

Additional payroll turn-ins will be accepted until Dec. 23 and cash until January.

It represents the largest campaign in the history of the Tennessee Valley CFC, according to Earl Johnson, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee.

"This was a special year, with all that our country is going through with many of our men and women fighting on various battlefields," he said. "The local civilian, military and contractor employees have answered the call to fight battles of poverty, hunger, hurt and isolation through dona-

tions to charities in the Tennessee Valley and throughout the nation.

"This has been a great year to give and to be alive. There is no organization anywhere else in the world that people unite together to meet the many needs like they do with CFC. CFC nationally has over 1,000,000 donors. The Tennessee Valley CFC is making a major difference."

A campaign award ceremony is scheduled 9 a.m. Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium. Members of the federal community are invited.



# Letters to the editor

## Remember our troops

Let us not forget our troops who are serving in Iraq and other parts of the world this Christmas season. This will be the first Christmas that Spec. Thomas Lewis' family will not have him home for the holidays. He is serving with the 82nd Airborne Division somewhere in Iraq and is the son of Rita Leonard of IMMC, the late Madison County deputy sheriff Thomas Lewis, and nephew of Annette Lewis of LOGSA. Keep Specialist Lewis and all of our military serving overseas in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. Remember to keep family and friends close at heart this holiday season. May God bless.

**Annette Lewis**  
Logistics Support Activity



Courtesy photo

**Spec. THOMAS LEWIS**

## Hours open to question

From the Garrison's web site the hours for Gate 1, Martin Road (East) are listed as: 5:30 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to midnight Saturday, Sunday and holidays; one-way inbound 5:30-8 a.m. Monday through Friday and one-way outbound 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

On Dec. 1, I had to leave work to attend to a sick child at home. I arrived at the Martin Road-Patton Road intersection at 8:15 a.m. only to find the outbound gate closed. I was forced to drive up Patton Road to Drake Avenue in order to get home. This is not the first time that I have encountered Gate 1 not operating at its posted schedule. When can I expect to see this situation rectified?

**Ron Bednarczyk**  
RD&E Center

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "You are correct in your observation that the posted hours for Gate 1 are as stated. However, the one-way inbound and outbound gate hours are 'targeted times' which we attempt to achieve on a daily basis. Several mitigating factors affect our ability to strictly adhere to these timelines. Volume of traffic flow, operational tempo of on duty patrols, traffic accidents, and random gate inspections all factor into the specific time at which the gates are open for two-way traffic. We apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced, but as you stated, there are numerous other options to exit the installation."*

## Wrong way to ask for donation

I do believe in good valid efforts to raise money for a valid cause. Back when I first started with the government in the late 1970s, there was very little talk in my workplace about the Combined Federal Campaign. It was

mentioned but there was never a big deal made of it. It has always been my understanding that a person's participation in CFC is strictly voluntary; however, I

See **Participation** on page 5

## Quote of the week

**'T**o those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C students, I say you too may one day be president of the United States.'

— **President Bush**

*Yale University commencement speech, 2001*

## Redstone Rocket

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### Rocket Staff

**Public Affairs Officer:** Al Schwartz

**Editor:** Skip Vaughn

**Reporters:** Sandy Riebeling

Kelley Lane

Kim Mason

**Copy Editor:** Scott Seeley

**Advertising Sales:** Aletha Pardue

Petie Sims

# Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

**Nov. 26:** A contractor was observed exceeding the posted speed limit on Ride-out Road. When stopped, he was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license. He was issued violation notices for each offense and released.

**Nov. 26:** An individual reported that someone removed the Redstone Arsenal decal from his vehicle while it was parked and unattended in the Huntsville area.

**Nov. 26:** An individual was observed in the Shopette concealing several bottles of alcoholic beverages. The person left the scene and was stopped at Gate 8 where the beverages were recovered. The individual was issued a violation notice and escorted from Redstone Arsenal.

**Nov. 27:** A soldier was found to have consumed an alcoholic beverage after being tested at the Provost Marshal Office. He was released to his unit.

**Nov. 29:** An individual was apprehended at the Post Exchange after she was observed concealing several items and exiting the PX without rendering proper

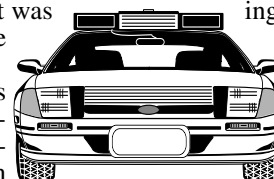
payment. The items were recovered and the individual was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**Dec. 1:** An individual reported that someone removed the Redstone Arsenal decal from his personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended at his Huntsville residence.

**Dec. 2:** An individual was apprehended at the PX after he was observed concealing an item and then exiting without rendering proper payment. The item was recovered and the individual was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**Dec. 3:** An individual was observed exceeding the posted speed limit on Vincent Drive. When stopped, he was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license. He was issued violation notices for each offense and released.

**Violation notices issued:** trespassing, 1; speeding, 42; failure to use seatbelts, 7; operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked/canceled driver's license, 2; and larceny, 1.



## An open lane random survey

*What was the worst Christmas present you've ever gotten?*

By **KELLEY LANE**

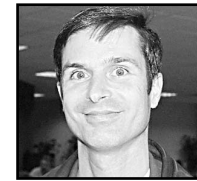
Staff writer

[kellyqa@bellsouth.net](mailto:kellyqa@bellsouth.net)



**Chuck Wine**  
contractor

"I got a cat. It was given to me by someone who was basically giving it to themselves."



**Mark Kather**  
contractor

"A book light that was so poorly made that it fell apart as I was opening the package."



**Carlos Woods**  
DoD civilian

"I got a lower grade cowboy suit than my friend. His suit was better than mine and I was jealous."



**Elizabeth Carter**  
DoD civilian

"My mother passed away."

## Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* staff will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. After the Dec. 17 publication, our first issue next year is Jan. 7. We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

The *Redstone Rocket* is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by *The Huntsville Times* a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

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# Recreation center dedicated to former director

*Diane Campbell remembered as friend, great professional*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Scott Campbell was a young soldier interested in photography when he met his future wife at Redstone in April 1977.

He still has the card she signed for him that summer. Diane Campbell helped soldiers like Scott throughout her career. She worked in arts and crafts, mainly teaching

photography, when she started at Redstone in 1976. After moving to the Recreation Center in 1985, she became its director in 1987. She died Sept. 25, 2002 at age 51 from a heart attack while at work in her office.

But her life of service is not forgotten. The facility that she cared so much about was dedicated Dec. 3 as the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

"She did a lot for the place," said Scott Campbell, 50, a Harvest resident originally from West Palm Beach, Fla. "She really cared about the soldiers and always tried to get the best things."

A memorial plaque was unveiled in front of building 3711 in a brief ceremony. Dan Ahern, director of personnel and community activities, called it a "very special ceremony for us all."

"We're here today to dedicate a facility to a great professional, friend and someone who quite literally, not just figuratively, dedicated her soul to this place, Diane G. Campbell," Dan Ahern, director of personnel and community activities, said.

"I remember Diane as a wonderful lady and a great friend to the people around her," Col. Bob Devlin, the Garrison commander, said. "She certainly touched a lot of hearts."

He joined Scott Campbell in cutting a ceremonial ribbon in front of the entrance.

"This is just really nice, I just wish she could've been here to see this," Campbell said. "All she did for the troops and for the soldiers. She loved this place. She really did give her heart and soul, she put in a lot of hours."

The event also signified the grand opening of the Leisure Travel Office, a new function of the center's Information, Ticket and Registration Office. Joe Ruffner

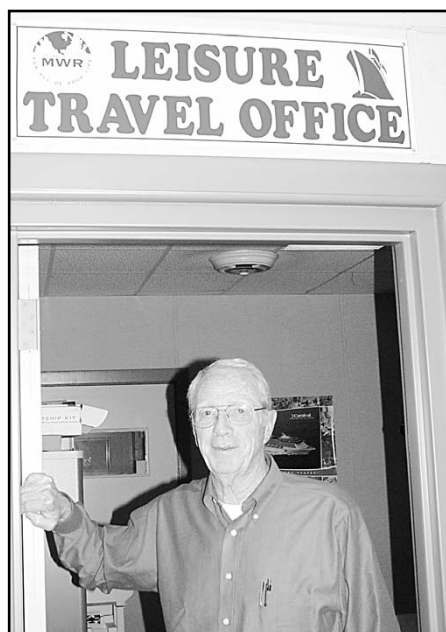


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**NOW OPEN— Joe Ruffner directs the newly established Leisure Travel Office.**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**IN MEMORY— Scott Campbell kneels next to the plaque dedicating the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.**

er is leisure travel director.

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center, under director Gail Glass, is off Patton Road. It's open Tuesdays through Fridays

from 1:30-8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The phone number is 876-4531.

## Getting to know you

By KIM MASON  
Staff writer  
kimberly.mason@redstone.army.mil

**Name:** Steve Ackermann  
(aka: Bubbles the Clown)

**Job:** Documentation specialist, Sustainment Branch of Industrial Operations for Research Development and Engineering Center

**Where do you call home?**  
Belleville, Ill.

**What do you like about your job?**

I like the work I'm doing and this office is a great place to work. I enjoy working for Ralph Burns and Ken Dulaney. They allow us to do our job and treat us like professionals.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I am a clown for the Shriners in Huntsville. All proceeds from clown-

ing benefits Shriner Hospitals burn research.

**What are your goals?**

To retire someday and spend a lot more time working for the Shriners and travel with my wife.



# Participation

continued from page 2

worked for a person during the early to mid-1980s who wanted to give a new meaning to “voluntary” participation. This person wanted to give “voluntary” a new dimension. This supervisor wanted 100 percent participation.

I went along with this idea for a while. Then one year, I decided enough was enough and declined to participate. Unknown to me, the boss was taking head count and with the deadline drawing near I was approached by the supervisor for a second time and you might say a pressure tactic began. This person wanted 100 percent participation and determined not to accept “no” for an answer. So just to get this person off my back, I conceded to give the bare minimum.

I was so aggravated that I started to report my boss’ conduct to the CFC chairperson. I decided then and there I would never participate in another CFC campaign and I still feel the same way to this day.

Please don’t get me wrong. I do give to valid causes except when I give there is no middle man. I give directly to the person in need. I feel this is the only true way to make sure your gift definitely gets into the hands that need it.

## Name withheld by request

*Editor’s note: Earl Johnson, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for the Combined Federal Campaign, provided the following response.*

*“The Combined Federal Campaign was established in 1961, and is the only government-authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It is designed to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost efficient and effective in providing federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. Last year more than 1,000,000 federal donors contributed more than \$236 million. CFC is the largest employee based fund-raising program in the country. CFC was established to allow federal employees to pool their resources together in support of charities that are established to meet needs that most citizens are unaware exist.*

*“The local CFC campaign is run in a manner to inform all local federal employees of the opportunity to contribute to the charity of choice. Contributing to CFC is strictly voluntary, and should never be based on coercion. The Office of Personnel Management regulation 5 CFR Part 950 is the regulatory guidance for CFC. The regulation specifically prohibits any coercion of employees in giving to CFC. The regulation prohibits the solicitation of employees by their supervisor or by any individual in their supervisory chain of command. This does not prohibit the supervisor from demonstrating his or her support of the CFC.*

*“The Tennessee Valley CFC has done everything possible to ensure the integrity of the solicitation process. Our CFC continues to lead the way in supporting local charities, and being a major contributor in meeting the needs in this community.”*

# Brother and sister enter civilian life together

## Retirement ceremony a real family affair

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

They're like most brothers and sisters. There's the verbal sparring, the gentle (and sometimes not-so-gentle) reminders and the brutal honesty. But these siblings are unique.

MSgt. Jacob Hill Jr. and MSgt. Veronica Davis are retiring at the same time with a combined 45 years of service. Their joint retirement ceremony was scheduled Dec. 9 at Bob Jones Auditorium. So, family members and friends only had to make one trip from Milton, Fla., to see them off.

"I feel fortunate to have been assigned here at the same place with my brother," said Davis, retiring with about 21 years. She was the logistics service NCO for Black Hawk helicopter in the office of the assistant program manager for utility helicopters under the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

"We're a very close-knit family," said Hill, retiring with 25 years service. He was a logistics NCO at the Logistics Support Activity.

Both plan to stay in the local area and pursue government civilian careers in logistics or acquisition. They might start a business together in Huntsville in logistics management or consulting.

"I felt it's time for me to retire now and start putting my family first," Davis, 39, said. "If I had to do it again,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**SIBLINGS— MSgt. Jacob Hill Jr. and his sister MSgt. Veronica Davis are retiring with a combined 45 years of service.**

I'd do it all over because the Army's a great place to get experience in the acquisition and logistics field. But it's time to move on."

"I have several plans in the basket," Hill, 41, said. "I'm trying to decide which one will be best that I can serve the United States. First I'm looking at government service, going into contracting or logistics. My second one would be pursuing my master's degree along with attending law school. And my final one would be start my own business in logistics."

Hill began a military tradition in his family when he

entered the Army in June 1980 under delayed entry. Davis joined in May 1983. "My brother had already been in three years and he seemed to be doing OK and he was talking about how he liked the Army and everything," she said. "So I just wanted to try for three years to see what it was like to get the experience, the job experience, and to travel. So I ended up being there 20 (years)."

Their other three siblings followed suit. Norman Hill, 38, served about eight years in the Army. Their younger sister, Air Force Sgt. Angel Shoto, 26, is a nurse stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Navy Seaman 1st Class Kevin Shoto, 24, is an engineering technician in Norfolk, Va.

"The whole family's been in the military, except my mother and my father. My stepfather has, though. He's retired Navy," Hill said. "And we have many cousins who've been in the Army."

Hill and his wife, Deborah, have a 13-year-old son, Jacob Darnell Hill III. Hill's hobbies include cruising on a motorcycle, reading books, watching the news, playing sports with his son, traveling and fixing old cars.

"I'm family-oriented so I like to spend a lot of time with my family including going to the movies, plays, listening to jazz music and traveling," Davis said. The divorcee has two sons, Antwain Davis, 13, and Anthony Crute Jr., 5.

Davis and Hill traveled throughout their Army careers; and their last tours marked their first together. Hill arrived in May 2000. Davis, who was here from 1985-88, returned in August 2002. Both were assigned to offices in the Sparkman Center.

"She's in (building) 5308, I'm in 5307," Hill said. "So we're very close."



# Post Exchange manager crosses desert to serve

*Less than a year until retirement, Kenny Barton returns from Kuwait*

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer

sandyr@htimes.com

Kenny Barton spent his adult life serving his country. His first uniform was a red zippered jump suit, worn while pumping gas at the AAFES service station at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., in 1971.

Thirty-two years later, on the cusp of retirement from Redstone's Post Exchange, Barton was asked to trade in his manager's coat and tie for BDUs and a gas mask. After three decades spent trying to bring customers into his stores, Barton was asked to take the store to the soldiers – to set up tactical field exchanges in Kuwait and Iraq.

He didn't flinch.

"I've never wanted to work for another company," Barton said of his Army and Air Force Exchange Service career. "I love serving soldiers and their families."

When he came home and told his wife, Melissa, that he wanted to go, she was supportive. "She said, 'Do what you need to do. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We'll be fine,'" Barton said.

He talked with his children, Angelia, who lives in Panama City, Fla., with her husband and daughter; and son, Michael, still at home and attending Wallace State. With their blessing, he said goodbye to his granddaughter and on April 20, left for a six-month tour in the Gulf.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**MINDING THE STORE—** PX manager Kenny Barton calls his six-month tour in Kuwait the opportunity of a lifetime but says he's glad to be back home and ready for retirement.

"I never thought I'd be going to Kuwait in the middle of a war, especially this close to retirement," he said. "But this really was the chance of a lifetime. There are about 20 sites operational in Iraq and Kuwait. I worked at three different sites in Kuwait."

His first stop in Kuwait was a Sea Port of Debarkation exchange, which was basically a small group of trailers run off generators that supplied items of necessity for troops coming through and heading north.

"There were about eight of us running

the PX at the SPOD," Barton said. "The merchandise was prepackaged and prepositioned in big ConEx tractor trailer size containers in Kuwait before the war started. Basic stock assortment – toothpaste, deodorant, health and beauty stuff."

The biggest challenges were the heat, 120 degrees outside and about 140 inside the PX; and monitoring the number of customers in the PX at any given time. "The PX was only 1,200 square feet. We had to control the weight level in the building so not everyone could come in at one time."

Barton worked at the SPOD six weeks before moving on to Arifjan, one of the larger operations in the country.

"The store was in a circus tent," he said. "The front half was the store, the back half was split between the stock room and living quarters for the staff – about 20 people."

Plywood partitions cordoned off cubicle-size living quarters for the crew, which was a step up from the 10-man tent he shared at the SPOD. "We tried to keep it quiet in the quarters because we were running the operation 24 hours a day. Someone was always sleeping. It was a tremen-

dous operation. We had lines wrapped around the store constantly. We did have a carnival-type midway outside with a mobile Burger King, mobile Baskin Robbins and mobile Pizza Hut. At 2 a.m. it was just as busy as could be outside."

Every now and then, Barton worked the rodeo route which meant loading PX merchandise onto trucks and taking the store to the troops. Even though it was in the heat of the day, Barton said he enjoyed the work. "We had a lot of fun."

From Arifjan, Barton moved on to the Kuwait Naval Base and a 3,000 square foot PX. Barton remembers the setup being a little odd because it was a Kuwaiti base, with a U.S. Naval commander and Army troops all together.

"Lots of Kuwaitis shopped the PX," he said. "They seemed to be real interested in our setup and the products we had. The hottest item we sold was those fold-up lawn chairs – the kind that fit into that bag you can carry on your shoulder. Those chairs are going to be all over Kuwait. They loved them."

This PX was a more elaborate operation with a food court including Hardees, Pizza Inn, KFC, Subway, Baskin Robbins, a laundry and dry cleaners.

"The troops really liked the fast food," Barton said. "A taste of home for the troops passing through."

Barton completed his six-month assignment and returned home to Redstone Oct. 31.

"I was never in fear for my life, the whole time I was there," he said. Taking everything into consideration, Barton added, "Kim (Sumpter) probably had it rougher than I did, running things back here. She did an outstanding job, by the way." Sumpter, PX sales and merchandise manager, served as acting general manager during Barton's absence.

With his Jan. 30 retirement date looming, Barton has no regrets. He's worked from Alaska to California to Kuwait. Since arriving at Redstone in 1997, the PX has undergone "tremendous improvements" including building a new food court and a main store renovation that

## Redstone units add 13 soldiers

Thirteen soldiers, including two officers, arrived for assignment at Redstone in November.

The Garrison provided the following in-processing list:

Sgt. Marcus Rushing, HHC AMCOM; SSgt. Jason Sorenson, Delta Company; SSgt. George Favire, Delta Company; Spec. Ryan McClymont, HHC 59th; SFC Stephan Parris, Delta Company; SFC

Donald Knollenberg, HHC 59th; SSgt. Antonio Sanders, Delta Company; SFC Charles Curtis, 95th Maintenance; SSgt. Patrick Belleoudry, Headquarters & Alpha; Sgt. Terence Deese, AMCOM; Sgt. Thomas Courtright, Delta Company; Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal; and CWO 5 Elmer Holmes, Headquarters & Alpha.

See Manager on page 9

# Army Family Team Building volunteers recognized

*Experience shared in training program*

By CHRIS SWART

*For the Rocket*

A proclamation signed by the sergeant major of the Army and the chief of staff of the Army in December 1998 encouraged all local commands to take time each December to acknowledge the special contributions of Army Family Team Building and to thank AFTB volunteers and staff for their hard work, dedication and selfless service.

Redstone Arsenal AFTB volunteers will be honored with just such a celebration Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. at Army Community Service. They will be recognized for all they do to make life better for the soldiers and families of Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding communities.

On Dec. 17, the AFTB staff will help the Enlisted Spouses Club with its annual holiday gift-wrapping fundraiser at the Post Exchange mall. Take this opportunity to learn more about the AFTB program

and meet the dedicated volunteers who make it happen — and have a gift wrapped, for a good cause, at the same time.

AFTB is a family training and readiness program that provides participants with an understanding of Army culture, as well as the skills and resources they need to become self-reliant and self-sufficient members of the military community. Enrollment in the program is based on experience as an Army family member, not on the rank of the sponsor. Family members can enter the training program when and where they desire.

The schedule of classes for 2004 includes: Jan. 27-29, Level I; March 8-11, Level II; April 5-8, Instructor Training; and May 4-6, Level I.

Classes are held at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, from 6-9 p.m. Call 876-5397 to enroll and register for free child care.

*Editor's note: Chris Swart is the marketing chairperson for Army Family Team Building.*

## ■ Persian Gulf tour rounds out PX manager's career

### Manager

continued from page 8

transformed the appearance from a 1970s look to “a modern exchange that can compete with any exchange in the world in size and merchandise availability.”

But Barton doesn't take the credit. “It had nothing to do with me,” he said. “AAFES and the people here are what make this exchange great. Some of the best people I've ever worked with are right here — knowledgeable, dedicated — outstanding location.”

Looking back, Barton said the darkest time in his career had nothing to do with the desert or his recent tour.

“The worst memory sticks in my mind. It taught me something,” he said. “It was early in my career. I was a supervisor, running the service department at Barksdale. I had a mentor — retired sergeant major — worked as a mechanic. He was doing a tune-up. Forgot to chock the wheels and the car started moving. He was crushed between his work bench and the car.”

Fortunately the man survived, but he was crippled for life.

“Throughout my career — when I see things become routine, start taking things for granted, get a little careless, that pops back into my mind. It has shaped my management standard. I have an obligation to keep our employees safe. It's a big deal to me.”

Having to close the Post Exchange at

Castle Air Force Base, Calif., was the most heartbreaking time in his career. “They were closing the whole base — BRAC. Reducing the work force as the troops left and things were shutting down. It was very difficult emotionally. People were losing their jobs, retirees were losing their PX and even more than that, the place they came to socialize and connect. Had people cry when it closed. I never wanted to do that again.”

But the good times far outweigh the bad, according to Barton. “I got to see the country — the world,” he said. “Met great people all over. Don't know what I'll do next.”

Whether he'll take another job someday hasn't been decided but he said he will take some time off to enjoy some of his hobbies. “I like muscle cars,” he said. “I've restored a '68 Mustang twice now. It belongs to my son ... I enjoy woodworking, even though I'm not good at it, I like it.”

And there's always golf — spending time with his family and watching his grandchildren grow up. “I have fond memories of growing up in Arkansas surrounded by extended family. My grandparents had a farm nearby. I want my grandchildren to have good memories of family, too.”

He just has to make it through one more Christmas season. Carl Carpenter, moving from Nebraska, will succeed him as general manager. “I hear he's an avid fisherman,” Barton said. “He should enjoy it here.”

# Rockin' and rollin' with Henry Rollins

*Performer visits deployed troops*

By Sgt. GREG HEATH

*Army News Service*

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Hundreds of fans packed Bagram Civic Center to see hardcore rock icon Henry Rollins Dec. 7 as part of his USO-sponsored tour to visit servicemembers deployed overseas.

Rollins, former front man of legendary '80s punk pioneers Black Flag and currently lead singer of Rollins' Band, as well as record company executive, publisher, writer, actor, and spoken word performer, took time from his schedule to bring a message of support from home for American servicemembers here in Afghanistan.

“Everyone (at home is) on the same page in that we love our troops, in that we want them home in one piece ASAP; even though we may disagree on other things, we're all watching you and hoping for your safe return,” Rollins said to the energized crowd.

During his daylong visit, Rollins visited soldiers in Kabul and Bagram Air Base and had an opportunity to

walk around and meet hundreds of servicemembers where they live and work.

He shared his thoughts and reflections on some of things he saw during the day while talking to the servicemembers gathered to see him at the civic center.

One thing that especially made an impression on him was at the Medical Task Force-44 Combat Support Hospital, when he went into the intensive care ward and saw the many Afghan patients whose lives were saved because of the medical treatment they received by American servicemembers.

“In America, on the news, we see the exclamation points about this whole thing, casualties, helicopter crashes, because it makes for good news and it's very important when we lose all those people; but what we never hear about, what I've found out today, are all the good things that are happening to this country because of all of you that are here,” Rollins expressed to the crowd. “I'm about to start 50 or 60 speaking dates all across America and by the time I'm done with them they'll all know what I saw, so you can count on me for that.”

# Setting the record straight about safety

*Garrison Safety Office  
has proactive goal*

By KIM MASON

Staff writer

kimberly.mason@redstone.army.mil

Members of the Garrison Safety Office know the common misconception about their profession.

"Safety is more than just filling out accident reports and evaluating statistics," Mike Moore, chief of installation safety, said. "It is working one-on-one with the soldier or civilian customer."

Customer satisfaction has been one of the office's biggest accomplishments in 2003. "I think this is evident in the feedback we have received from the Garrison Customer Satisfaction Survey from the Redstone Intranet. Survey responses have been mainly positive and this is a good internal indicator," Moore said.

The office started to organize in April 2003 and was officially formed Oct. 1 under the Installation Management Agency. IMA's mission is supporting mission readiness and enabling the well-being of soldiers, civilians and family members.

Among its multiple duties, the office helps support the postwide infrastructure, non-mission specific functions and acts as a liaison with Redstone tenants to increase risk awareness.

One goal is to be more proactive in preventing accidents vs. simply reacting to accidents as they happen. The staff also provides advice and technical expertise to Garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin.

Not long after the office formed, Defense Secretary

Donald Rumsfeld set an ambitious goal across the Department of Defense. "I challenge all of you to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent in the next two years," he said.

In order to meet this goal, the office is focusing on three areas: privately-owned vehicle safety, accident analysis and risk management training.

The safety office worked with the Provost Marshal Office from Nov. 17-30 on the "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Seatbelt use on the Arsenal was checked and citations were issued for non-compliance. These checks also helped crack down on speeding.

POV safety includes motorcycle safety training. The safety office contracted with a Madison Harley Davidson dealership to provide motorcycle training to motorcyclists on Redstone.

Department of Defense instruction states that motorcycle training is provided to military and DoD civilians at no cost. Proof of motorcycle safety training is required for motorcycle registration on Redstone.

"The two most common areas of concern on Redstone Arsenal are slips, trips and falls and minor traffic accidents involving privately owned or government vehicles. The number of incidents for both of these has remained constant and I think we can do better," Moore said.

The office also works with tenants on the Arsenal to increase risk management training. "Safety is a command program," Moore said. "It only operates effectively when members of the Redstone community speak up when they see something unsafe."

"It used to be when people mentioned the safety office they thought about being shut down," safety specialist Bobby Taylor said. "Today we work with people to ensure successful mission accomplishment and help



Photo by Kim Mason

**MAKING PLANS—** Garrison Safety Office members include from left Keith Coates, chief Mike Moore, John Zuber and Bobby Taylor.

them to manage real or potential risks that might threaten their personal safety."

The rest of the office staff includes Keith Coates and John Zuber. Coates, Taylor and Zuber are all former AMCOM Safety specialists. Moore credits his office's success to AMCOM. "We are just building on the good things they have already done," he said.



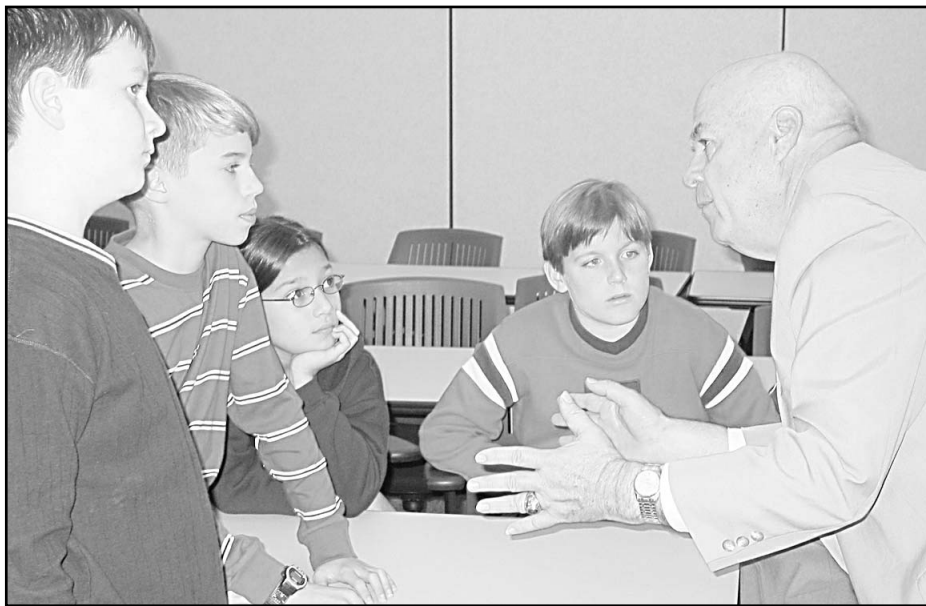


Photo by Kim Gillespie

## Round table

From left students John Fleischauer, John Irtle, Devan Rogers and Garrett Teague from Gordon Bibb Elementary School in Decatur discuss the finer points of engineering with Software Engineering Division chief Bill Craig. Twenty-three of the school's enrichment program students, including robotics team members, visited the division Dec. 2 to learn about its work.

## ■ Armywide conference airs quality of life concerns

# Benefits

continued from page 1

Each year the AFAP process brings to light hundreds of concerns from Army installations worldwide, dealing with both military and civilian issues. Every issue is addressed, at the local level if possible. Not every recommendation is implemented, but every one is considered. Some changes must be decided and implemented through higher headquarters. Some things can only be changed by law. Issues worthy of consideration are again elevated until they reach the DA level in which another AFAP conference is held. Delegates to this conference are pooled from every demographic segment of the Army and are then divided into work groups such as family support, force support, logistical support, employment, entitlement and medical/dental, to discuss all the issues presented to them and narrow the field to their top three.

Near the end of the five-day conference, a spokesman from each group briefs the delegation and audience of senior Army leaders on their top three and a vote is taken.

The 103 delegates to this year's AFAP conference Nov. 17-21 not only voted on the top five issues from the conference, but they also named the four most valuable community services and the six most critical active AFAP issues.

"Sometimes it takes a while to get the changes made," Leggett said. "Issues are still being worked from conferences in the last few years. The GO steering committee looks at them again, checks the progress."

Mortgage relief for mobilized Reserve component servicemembers ranked second on this year's top five list.

When called to active duty, Reservists and National Guard members not only uproot their lives and leave their families, about one-third of them suffer financial hardship due to the pay differential

between their civilian job and their soldier pay. Mortgage relief through the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act would allow them to defer the difference between their existing mortgage payment on the family's primary residence and the Basic Allowance for Housing for the duration of mobilization.

Tying for second was death benefits for stillborn infants. The recommendation was to cover stillborn children under the Family Supplemental Group Life Insurance.

Rounding out the top five were lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized servicemembers and mandatory review of weight allowance for permanent change of station moves.

"This was a fantastic conference," Sharon Samuelson, ACS volunteer and retiree spouse, said. Samuelson volunteered for Redstone's AFAP conference the past two years, once as a facilitator, once as a recorder. She was among five Redstone delegates to the DA conference. "You really feel like the delegates' voices are heard," she said. "The generals are listening. Change happens."

In the last 20 years, AFAP has raised more than 542 issues, resulting in 82 changes to legislation, 130 revised policies and 140 improved programs or services, not including issues resolved at the local level.

Team Redstone representatives to the DA Army Family Action Plan conference included Leggett, retiree delegate; Samuelson, recorder; Shannon Morrison, transcriber; and from the Space and Missile Defense Command, Kay Ward and Gloria Flowers, both facilitators.

Redstone's 16th annual Army Family Action Plan Conference is Jan. 13-14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Quality of Life surveys are available several places including Army Community Service. Anyone interested in being a part of the conference should call Leggett at 867-5397.

# Just clowning around for Redstone youngsters

*Circus performers visit  
child development center*

By **KELLEY LANE**  
Staff writer  
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Children at the Child Development Center are used to seeing people in uniform. They don't bat an eye at shiny boots

and camouflage. Want to get their attention? Show up in a red nose.

Clowns from the Ringling Brothers Circus's Three Ring Adventure did just that Thursday, captivating the Redstone community's smallest members. They took time out of a five-day visit to Huntsville to bring a few laughs and rubber noses to the Arsenal.

Starting at 9:30 a.m., they performed two back-to-back shows at the CDC last-

ing about a half hour each. Although the weather outside was dreary, inside it was all sunshine and smiles. When Adventure ringmaster Andre McClain entered to start the show, little eyes widened and little jaws dropped. Standing before them lean and tall in black boots and fringed shirt was a real life, genuine cowboy.

McClain is a third generation cowboy who grew up on the Bill Pickett Rodeo circuit. He is also a master of the lasso. Kids and teachers alike gasped at his twirling lariat as he performed the classic cowboy art of dancing through his own lasso. Audience members even had a chance to give it a try when he produced a box of child-sized ropes. He gave them a few pointers while the kids learned that while it wasn't as easy as it looked, it was indeed just as fun.

Clown couple Steve and Elizabeth Lough performed first separately and then as a team. The two met at Clown College Japan, affiliated with Ringling Brothers, and performed with the Kinoshita Circus of Japan before coming to the American Ringling Brothers in 1999. Elizabeth performed tricks with a red rubber ball while wearing a traditional Japanese kimono and clown-sized Geta, wooden platform sandals. Her husband kept the audience spellbound with his hat antics.

Both found a way to make the children a part of the show, whether by selecting an assistant or by purposeful "mishaps" that required help from the kids. Although the couple have no children of their own, they feel that the kids in the audience are theirs in a way. "It's like we're the uncle and aunt for everybody," Steve said.

It was hard to tell who was happier at the end of the performance, the teachers still laughing, the performers with their

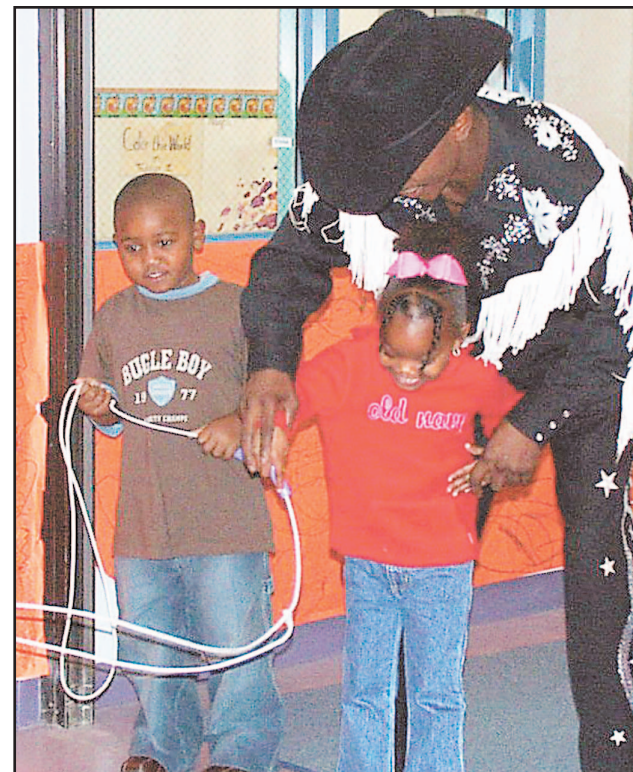


Photo by Kelley Lane

**ROUNDUP—** Collin Blanchard, 4, and Michaela Smith, 4, get a few lasso pointers from cowboy Andre McClain.

oversized clown-smiles even wider or the kids chattering excitedly on their way back to their classrooms, complimentary clown noses clutched tightly in their hands. Seeing their faces, it was easy to understand the joy of being a clown. But coming to Redstone was about more than just another day of giggles to Ringling Brothers.

"This is what we do for a living and we appreciate what these kids' mommies and daddies do for a living," Steve Lough said. "This is our way of trying to help out and do what we can do to boost morale. We really do — the whole circus — appreciate the work these moms and dads are doing for our country."

McClain concurred, adding that with parents deployed time and money can be tight for the families left at home. "For those kids who can't come out to the circus and be a part of the circus, we're able to bring the circus to them," he said. "We give them a nice show."



Photo by Kelley Lane

**REAL BALL—** Brandon King, 3, gives Elizabeth Lough a hand with her act.



# Santa makes annual trek to housing area

*Sergeants major bring greetings*

By MSgt. PHILLIPS LABOY  
*For the Rocket*

Seasons greetings from the members of the Sergeants Major Association! As we all know the holidays are fast approaching and the association wants to help spread some peace, joy and a little bit of happiness to local Redstone community children this year.

On Saturday at 9 a.m. the association, along with Santa and his elves, will be out in full force hosting the third annual Santa Run. Santa and his elves will start at two locations. Santa No. 1 and elves will start in the housing area across from the

Shopette and will continue through the housing area on the right side of Goss Road passing out candy for boys and girls. Santa No. 2 and elves will start in the housing area across from the Guest Housing building and continue on the left side of Goss Road doing the same. When both Santas meet, this event will conclude.

The purpose of this event is to spread some good will and to help bring in the holiday spirit throughout the community and also to show support for local families and their children. There is no need for you to come to us because we will bring Santa Claus and his helpers to you.

Again happy holidays and season's greetings to all!

*Editor's note: MSgt. Phillips Laboy is deputy commandant of the NCO Academy.*



Photo by Kim Mason

## *Serious thought*

Natalie Hatfield, 3, considers what she wants from Santa (Spec. Ismael Salinas) for Christmas. Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers put together a Christmas party for the Child Development Center on Friday. The group raised money to provide snacks and presents for the children.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## *Flipping the switch*

Becky Pillsbury, wife of post commander Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, gets a little help at the Redstone Holiday Tree Lighting held Thursday in front of Bicentennial Chapel.



# Organization patrols Redstone's cyberspace

*Info management directorate joined Garrison in October*

By KELLEY LANE  
Staff writer  
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

2003 has seen a world of change at Redstone. There have been new buildings, new missions and a few new organizations. New this year to Redstone, and the Army, is the Directorate of Information Management.

Formed from within the command's Corporate Information Center, the organization falls under the Garrison as part of the transformation of installation management.

"Army's intent was to centralize all information technology services at the DOIM so that each installation would have a DOIM that would provide IT services," Robert Brown, of Plans, Program and Integration at the DOIM, said. "Army, in centralizing the IT, is now funding the IT through the Installation Management Agency. What that allows all Army organizations to do — they don't have to pay money for these common services — is apply all of their mission money to their mission."

Operating in an interim capacity since October 2002, it officially became the Garrison DOIM last October.

The directorate is designed to handle basic information services for the Red-



Courtesy photo

**ON SCREEN— The Directorate of Information Management for the future will provide information technology services to federal organizations in North Alabama.**

stone community. By assuming responsibility for things such as e-mail, phone systems and information security, offices can free up the resources previously needed for those services and apply them to their mission. Having these services common to all organizations centralized in one organization saves money and allows for faster repairs and preventive measures.

"The DOIM is really a funded resource to these organizations. They can concen-

trate on their mission and we provide them the information technology to allow them to do that," Brown said. "In most cases, organizations will keep a small IT shop that will focus on their mission, their mission applications and on IT issues that pertain directly to their mission."

The directorate also provides an around-the-clock help desk for users and centralized desktop management. When a problem occurs, users can call a technician who, by remote access, can check and possibly repair software problems without sending someone to the location. This eliminates downtime for the computer in question.

Remote access also allows for the simultaneous mass update of software and utilities, instead of technicians going from office to office working on each machine. It also means that Redstone users can report problems and receive technical support from their computer regardless of where they are, even while deployed.

Perhaps the directorate's strongest selling point is its information assurance function. The directorate has established a Local Computer Emergency Response Team which guards the cyber gates of Redstone. Listed in the top 10 percent of Department of Defense LCERT teams, it ensures that information entering, leaving or at use on Redstone is secure and available to those who need it. Brown defines the team as not only reactive, but proactive, meaning it can detect and prevent

threats before they happen, not just fix them afterward.

"Just last month there was a trojan, a type of virus," Brown said. "Our LCERT team found it 24 hours before the Army's team found it and we were able to notify Army so that all the way across the Army we were aware that this was coming. It helped to stop it early before much damage was done."

Damage from viruses and hackers is costly. While the widely publicized MS Blaster virus caused approximately one lost day to private industry, quick work by Redstone's LCERT team ensured that no time was lost at Redstone, Brown said. He estimates that one day of network downtime at Redstone equals about \$2 million lost in productivity.

"NETCOM says that our critical systems should be available to our users 98 percent of the time. But we know here at Redstone our customers expect more than that," he said. "This year we have averaged over 99 percent at keeping our critical systems up."

As 2003 concludes, the directorate has big plans for the future. "We're beginning to partner with all our Redstone customers to transition their common IT services under the single DOIM concept structure," Brown said. Work began at home, so to speak, with the Garrison being rolled into the system. Other organizations, such as AMCOM, the Acquisition Center and LOGSA have begun the transition.

"Our DOIM has the best technology experts in the Army. What we're trying to do now is balance our technical knowledge with our business knowledge of how to do information technology as a business," Brown said. "That's what we're focusing on now, customer service and how to do things as a business so that we have both the best technical expertise and the best business processes."

## What you should know on information security

### GARRISON INSTALLATION SECURITY OFFICE

The Army's Information Security Program applies to all Army employees at Redstone Arsenal. Regardless of your rank, title or position, you have a personal and official responsibility for properly safeguarding and protecting classified and sensitive unclassified information.

What information is to be safeguarded and protected? Classified information and material, requiring protection against unauthorized disclosure, in the interest of national security, and concerned with the following:

- Military plans, weapons systems, or operations;
- Foreign government information;
- Intelligence activities (including special activities), intelligence sources or methods, or cryptology;
- Foreign relations or foreign activi-

ties of the United States, including confidential sources;

- Scientific, technological or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism;

- Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities;

- Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans or protection services relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism; or

- Weapons of mass destruction.

Information of this nature must be safeguarded and protected in accordance with Army Regulation 380-5, Information Security Program. Controlled unclassified information to include "for official use only" and sensitive unclassified information should also be safeguarded and protected.

# 'Butler Mobile' beefs up safety for deployed soldiers

*Ingenuity and elbow grease  
improve Humvee protection*

By Spec. CHAD WILKERSON  
*Army News Service*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ingenuity and improvisation have been hallmarks of the U.S. Army since its inception. Whether it is making something faster, easier, deadlier or safer, soldiers always find a way to improve upon what they are issued.

An improvising reservist has been using his engineering skills to help provide better protection to soldiers riding

around Iraq in unarmored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles.

Capt. Darryl Butler, a facility engineer for Task Force 1st Armored Division's 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md., is the type of soldier who is never satisfied with equipment that is simply "adequate."

An Army Corps of Engineers employee in his civilian job, Butler refers to himself as "an engineer through-and-through."

Butler's outlook: if he believes that he can come up with a project that will allow his fellow soldiers to accomplish their mission quicker, safer or more effectively,

it is his duty to do so.

Currently, Butler is working with a growing team of Iraqi engineers, including metal workers, sprayers and welders, piecing together his new brainchild: the Modified Protection for un-Armored Humvees.

More than 900 pounds of steel in a 25-piece kit make up what has been dubbed "The Butler Mobile," a custom, modular armor plating system designed to be an addition to soft-top Humvees.

The kit includes door pieces, floor plates and a bolt-on fortress for the rear and roof, all of which put a layer of heavy steel between soldiers and whatever the enemy throws at them, Butler said.

The entire project, he said, fits right into the scheme of what civil affairs soldiers are trying to accomplish in Iraq. Protecting soldiers while they are traveling to and from their mission locations boosts mission effectiveness and their confidence. And, employing Iraqis to help contributes to improvement of life and economic growth in the area.

With all that Butler has accomplished, with dozens of kits installed and hundreds on order, he is still looking at possible ways to improve upon his improvements.

"There are munitions that the MPAH is still susceptible to," Butler said. "We are ready and willing to beef the kit up even more, if need be."

The bottom line for Butler is not recognition from his command or adoration from his peers, he said. Although he has received an Army Commendation Medal for his efforts, Butler stands firm that he and his team are in the business of saving lives and getting soldiers home safely.

"This was done out of necessity," Butler said. "With the number of Coalition vehicles hit by improvised explosive devices, we had the opportunity to do something to prevent soldiers from being hurt and/or killed, and this thing does work."

*Editor's note: Spec. Chad Wilkerson is assigned to the 372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.*

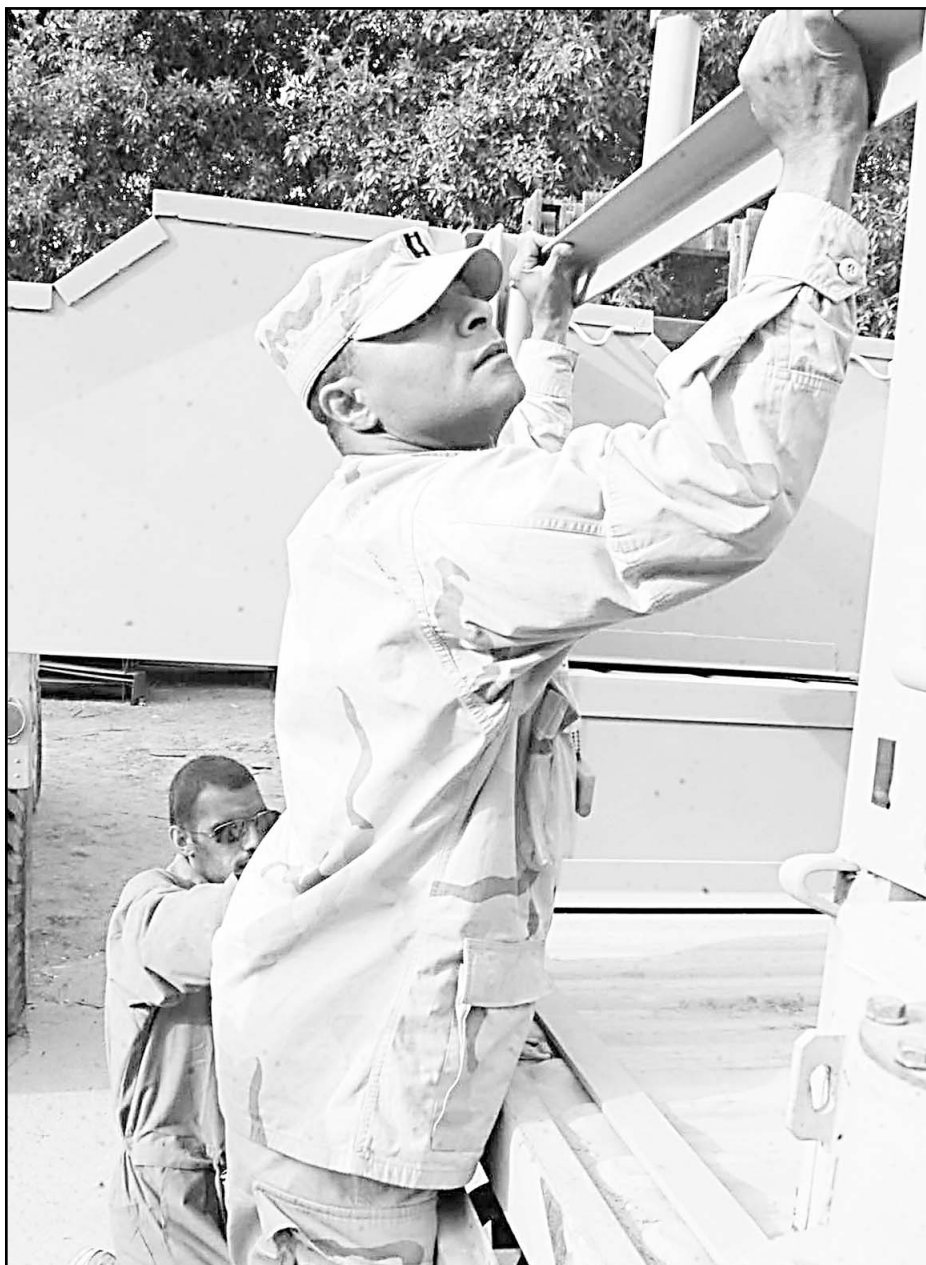


Photo by Spec. Chad Wilkerson

**HARD SHELL**— Capt. Darryl Butler, facility engineer for the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, Task Force 1st Armored Division, inspects a new Modified Protection for un-Armored Humvees kit, or MPAH, before it is lowered onto a Humvee. Butler, the kit's designer, personally oversees the installation of each kit.

# Video project sends 'hearts across water'

*Red Cross effort connects with deployed troops*

By Spec. LORIE JEWELL  
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Duty in Baghdad kept PFC Al Simons away from his family's Thanksgiving dinner, but an American Red Cross project is making sure he'll soon get a recap of the holiday feast.

With Project Video Connect, family and friends can send free visual messages to troops through electronic mail. Sgt. Maj. Ronald Simons sat before a tiny computer video camera Dec. 4 to get his 19-year-old son — an infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division — caught up on family news.

That included a few details of the big dinner, held this year at an aunt's home. She fixed a plate for the absent family member, with the younger Simons' photo on it instead of turkey and the trimmings.

"You should know Aunt Donna had you at the kid's table again," Simons said, suppressing a grin. "I think after a year in Baghdad, you'll be able to sit with the grown ups next year."

Simons made his electronic greeting through "Operation Hearts Across the Water," an effort by the human resources command's public affairs office to boost the spirits of servicemembers overseas

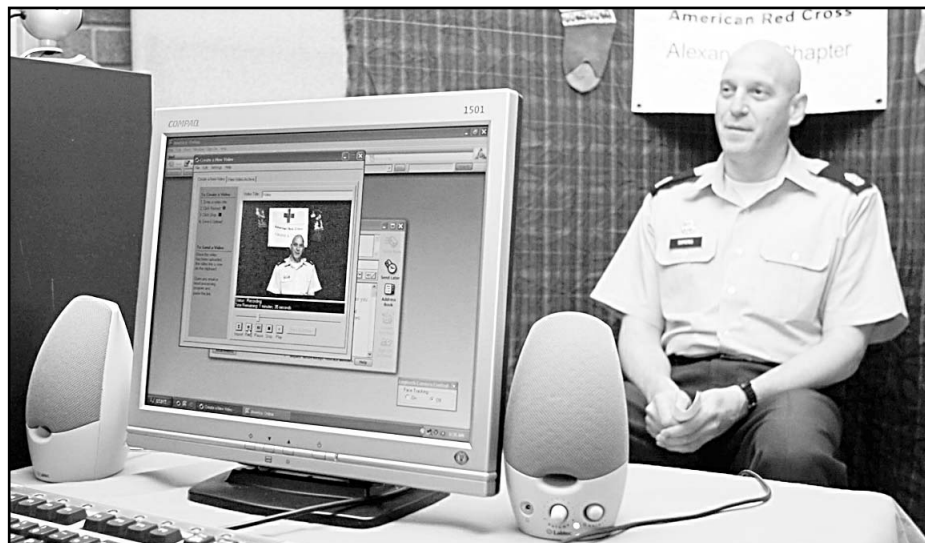


Photo by Spec. Lorie Jewell

**MESSAGE FROM HOME— Sgt. Maj. Ronald Simons talks to his son, Al, a private first class with the 82nd Airborne Division in Baghdad, through a video message that will be sent by electronic mail.**

with holiday greetings from home.

The Alexandria chapter of the Red Cross, one of 50 chapters that offer Project Video Connect, teamed up with Hearts Across the Water by bringing the electronic messaging equipment to the Hoffman Building in Alexandria.

Close to 60 greetings were made Dec. 4 at a booth set up in the lobby. Some sang

for the mini camera. One woman crooned, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," bringing passersby to a halt. Eleven members of the 558th Transportation Company squeezed in to offer a Merry Christmas from the Mighty Hammerheads.

Of those who recorded a greeting, some, like Simons, had someone specific to send it to. Others taped messages that

will go out to servicemembers at large.

"You don't have to know anyone over there to do this," said Shari Lawrence, deputy public affairs officer for HRC. Lawrence forwards the video bits to public affairs units in the field, who in turn share them with soldiers in their areas.

The Alexandria chapter has been offering the service since August, when the equipment arrived. Hewlett Packard donated the computer system, Vidi Systems of New York gave them the software, and AOL is providing Internet service to send the greetings.

Anyone wishing to send a video message can go to the office of any chapter offering the service, said Angela Palombaro, emergency services specialist for the Alexandria chapter. To find a chapter, visit the American Red Cross web site at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

Palombaro and two volunteers, Tom Robinson and Pat D'Angelo, also take the equipment on the road. Wherever they go, they are always moved by the heartfelt sentiments the camera captures.

"I've wanted to just cry a few times," said D'Angelo, who has a son at the Navy's Great Lakes Academy.

Simon's greeting was no exception. The sergeant major's voice caught in a slight choke at the end of the message to his son.

"We miss you. We love you," he said, pausing. "Take care."

# Reserve medical officer earns Soldier's Medal

*Helped injured man at Ground Zero*

By Spec. LORIE JEWELL  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Capt. John Chovanes ditched a fishing trip after terrorists flew two commercial airplanes into the New York City World Trade Center the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

Hearing pleas for medical help over the radio, he grabbed his rescue gear and redirected his car from Philadelphia to New York City.

At Ground Zero, rescuers led the

Army Medical Corps reservist on his stomach through an unstable makeshift path in the rubble to a trapped port authority officer. Chovanes, 39, stayed by officer John McLaughlin's side throughout the night, treating his wounds and keeping him alive until rescuers were able to free him the next morning.

Chief of the Army Reserve Lt. Gen. James Helmly pinned Chovanes with the Soldier's Medal for his deeds that fateful September day during a Pentagon ceremony Dec. 1.

"Once again, we see heroes rise to the occasion," Helmly said, explaining the meaning of the medal to 22 family members who came to watch the ceremony.

It's the highest award a soldier can get for putting his life on the line to save someone else in a non-combat situation.

"That's what John did, he placed his life at risk to stay with his patient. I tell you, this speaks volumes of the courage and steadfastness of the Army Medical Corps," Helmly said.

Chovanes said he doesn't see himself a hero. That distinction, he believes, belongs to the rescue workers, police and firemen who worked nonstop to save as many people as possible.

"Those are the guys who hung in there, relentlessly, they kept going back in to dig more people out," Chovanes said. "I just did what I was supposed to do. As a surgeon, I have no greater desire than to take care of those who are hurt."

Still, the medal — his first Army award since his July 2000 enlistment — means a lot to Chovanes. The symbolism of getting it in the Pentagon, another terrorist target, isn't lost, either.

"It's stunning, really," Chovanes said, blinking back tears. "It hits you in the heart, for sure, to hear all of this brought up again. It's pretty poignant."

Chovanes works as a resident trauma surgeon at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Prior to his pursuit of a medical degree, he was a paramedic and emergency room nurse.

He said Ground Zero elevated him to a whole new level of rendering aid under pressure, though. He admitted being scared throughout the rescue effort. The trek to get to McLaughlin was treacherous, with rescuers leading him on a hike

**'He placed his life at risk to stay with his patient. I tell you, this speaks volumes of the courage and steadfastness of the Army Medical Corps.'**

— Lt. Gen. James Helmly  
Reserve chief

into the underbelly of the collapsed towers. Chovanes had to crawl on his stomach through a tight hole to reach McLaughlin, squeezing oxygen bottles between his legs to get them to the injured officer.

Since only one body could fit in the cramped space at a time, Chovanes had to maneuver back out of the hole after treating McLaughlin to allow a rescue worker in to work on freeing him. They took turns in the hole throughout the night, always in danger of overhead debris caving in on them.

"There was a girder down there we used to rest on and we had a fire hose they used to keep the fire away from us," Chovanes said.

Talking about the experience, especially with others who went through it, has helped Chovanes deal with the intense emotional and mental aftermath. Seeing McLaughlin alive and well also helps, he said.



# HHC 59th shoots for triple crown

*Unit hopes to add basketball title*

By SKIP VAUGHN

*Rocket editor*

*skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil*

HHC 59th has a streak going as units prepare for the basketball season.

The "Raise up" bunch won softball and flag football championships, both in finals against rival Delta Company.

"The pressure is on HHC 59th now. We won the last two major sporting events – football and softball," said Jerry McIntyre, who played quarterback for the 59th and again coaches its basketball team. "So now we've got to get ready for basketball."

Last March the 59th was eliminated in the postseason tournament by the Marines who lost to Delta in the final. The 59th was runner-up to Bravo in 2002.

"We've got a pretty good team," 59th point guard Patrick Perry said. "We've got pretty much the same nucleus we had last year coming back with the guys from MEDDAC joining with us. And we've got a couple of new additions this year."

Returnees from the team which finished 17-4 include Perry, Laevrmonde Watts, Detrick Bush, Michael Copeland, Michael McGilton

and Mark Lewis. Newcomers include Errol Byrd and Michael Alsbrook.

The Marines lost 71-51 to Delta in the postseason final March 25 at Pagano Gym and finished 16-9.

"The starting lineup's pretty good," Marines forward Rodney Stanley said. "It's just going to be who's going to be our substitutes."

While the starters return, the bench is a question mark because Marine students typically are here for training only 6-7 weeks. The starting lineup includes Stanley, Damian Cason, Terrance Tallie, Victor Singleton and Timothy Freeman.

Delta, which finished 21-1, will defend its title with new coach Robert Harris, who arrived in October from Fort Stewart, Ga. He played basketball two years at Churchland High in Portsmouth, Va.

"I hope they have the same team they had last year with a couple of new faces, you know," Harris said. "I might want to get on the court."

The preseason tournament, double-elimination, was scheduled to start Dec. 9 with games 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at Pagano Gym. The regular season should begin Jan. 12 and the postseason tournament is late February to March. Games during the season are Monday through Thursday nights. Ten teams are expected to participate.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**ON POINT—** HHC 59th point guard Patrick Perry brings the ball up court during a game last year.



# Announcements



## Sports & Recreation

### Bowling center

Child and Youth Services is registering youth ages 5-18 for league play that starts Jan. 10. The league will play each Saturday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Redstone Lanes, building 3707 on Aerobee Road. Cost is \$75 per bowler and includes 14 weeks of bowling, shoe rental, Young American Bowling Alliance membership, Central Registration fee, T-Shirt, free Sunday bowling from 3-5 p.m., and free shoes anytime. Certified bowling instructors will be on hand. Register Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Challenger Community Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. For more information, call 876-3704.

### Golfers' snack bar

The Redstone Arsenal Golf Course Snack Bar is moving to the Pro Shop. The MWR Golf Course Snack Bar will be closed for the winter and reopen in March. Meanwhile, the Pro Shop will have snacks, drinks and sodas on hand for players. Come play a round and visit the MWR

Golf Course today. For more information, call 883-7977.

### Flight basketball

The Huntsville Flight will host a Salute to Military Night on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. During its game against the Asheville Altitude, the Flight will recognize members of local military units who have returned from deployment, those who have been activated and those scheduled for activation. The Flight will also record holiday greetings for troops serving overseas from the citizens of North Alabama. Anyone who wishes to record a greeting can do so at the game. All military personnel can purchase a special \$5 ticket with a military ID at the VBC box office. For more information call the Flight, of the National Basketball Development League, 429-1000.



## Conferences & Meetings

### Protestant women

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Thursdays from 9:30 to noon at Bicenten-

nial Chapel. Four studies are offered. "Come for fellowship, worship, prayer and Bible study," a prepared release said. Child care is available. Other classes are held Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and in the evening. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646 or Jennifer Devlin 716-0107.

### Sunday school

Adults are invited to study the book of James at Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel, room 13. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646.

### Communicators club

Learn the art of speaking, listening and thinking through the Communications Club which meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Sparkman building 5300, room 5140 on the first floor. For information call Dan Cutshall 876-4547 or Ron Legowik 876-5619.

### Waiting spouses

Waiting Spouses has several family activities planned for December. Waiting Spouses is a group of ladies who are geographically separated from their husbands. If your spouse belongs to any branch of the armed forces and is active duty and deployed, away on an unaccompanied tour, attending training, etc., then they'd love to have you join them. For more information about the group and upcoming activities, call Kristi Foster of Army Community Service 876-5397.

### Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 18 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Soldatenstube, building 3512, at the corner of Gray Road and Shilellagh Circle. For more information, call retired CSM Jean Rose 313-1659.

### Federal retirees

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees will hold its Christmas luncheon Saturday at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. The Huntsville Community Chorus will perform at 11 a.m.; and the luncheon starts at noon. Cost is \$10 per person. For reservations call 883-0243 by Thursday.



## Miscellaneous

### Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club each year presents Merit Awards to qualified applicants based on their scholastic achievements, citizenship and sincere desire to pursue higher education. These awards are designed to help offset the cost of tuition, books and related fees. All

applicants must meet the following criteria: be a member, spouse of a member, or the dependent of an OCWC member in good standing as of Oct. 1, 2003 and live within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. Candidates may compete in one of four categories: high school senior, undergraduate, graduate and member/spouse. Previous award winners may compete in succeeding years, but may win only once in each category. Additionally, students receiving full scholarships are not eligible to apply for a Merit Award. Applications will be available at all OCWC board meetings and luncheons beginning in October. The deadline for Merit Award consideration is Feb. 11, 2004. For more information call Michelle Archer, the Merit Award chairperson, 534-5783.

### Reserve unit

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal is looking for prior active duty soldiers who want to return to duty, or soldiers who wish to transfer from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 74B information systems operators, and 75B/H unit administration. For 74B, the unit will consider reclassification/waiver action to 74B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, PC programming languages, networking/systems administration and telecommunications skills. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the character and personal qualifications to pass a SBI Investigation check to obtain a top secret clearance required by the specialty. Specialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For MOS 75B/H, you must be MOS-Q prior service or transfer from another unit. For information call Charles Vartan 876-0604 (work) or 883-8891 (home).

### Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Jane Wyatt 876-4106 or Maj. Felicia Carter 313-3867. Contractors and other interested people can access [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

## Getting ready

Army Community Service volunteers Don and Lorraine Kraus begin decorating the ACS lobby, preparing for the holiday hot chocolate rush. Members of the community are invited to drop in from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 15-19 for a free hot cup of coca and a friendly hello. ACS is in building 3338 on Redeye Road.

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# Announcements

## Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. To bid on this property, go to [www.gsaauctions.gov](http://www.gsaauctions.gov). For more information, call 544-4667.

## Center holiday party

The Integrated Materiel Management Center will hold its annual Christmas party Dec. 16 from 11:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Tickets are now \$13. This year's theme is "Jingle Bell Rock" with contests, skits and music by Music Machine. Prizes will be given away throughout the afternoon. Visit the IMMC Christmas party web site at <http://immc.redstone.army.mil/christmas/> for a complete menu, ticket points of contact and information. You can also call Jan Pickard 876-2569.

## Student apprentices

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and

college programs are designed for students who are United States citizens and 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 7, 2004. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. The points of contact for applications are senior counselors, at all public, private and parochial high school and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at the Aviation and Missile Command include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for postmarking applications is Jan. 31. If the student is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the high school senior counselor or college placement service, call Julie Lumpkins of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center 313-4834.

## Youth flying lessons

Child and Youth Services' Flying Lessons are going on now. Youngsters ages 12-18 will have the opportunity to take flying lessons at Redstone Flying Activity. Cost per child is \$545. Classes include eight hours ground session, five one-hour flight sessions and more. The parent and child must become Flying Activity members (\$45 fee) in order to secure required liability insurance. For classes to begin, at least six students must register. For details call Redstone Flying Activity 881-3980 or Child and Youth Services 876-3704.

## Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Pro-

fessionals will present two \$1,000 annual scholarship awards to a local high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information, call Jackie Kenner 876-8131.

## Arts and crafts

The June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center, building 3615 on Gray Road, has new classes for you to enjoy. The classes are open to the entire Redstone community, including contractors. For a full listing of classes and times, call 876-7951 or go to [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

## Turkey shoot

Outdoor Recreation will have a turkey shoot Saturday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation, building 5132 on Sportsman Drive. "Come on out during your lunch break for your chance to win a Christmas turkey or ham," a prepared release said. Cost is \$3 per shot; and the winner is determined by best-placed shot on a paper target. Shotguns and shells for competition will be on hand from Outdoor Recreation. Shooters must be at least 12 old; and a parent must accompany all minors. For more information, call 876-4868.

## Motorcycle safety course

Motorcycle training is available Dec. 10 at the Rocket Harley-Davidson Dealership, I-565 and Greenbrier Road. Soldiers,

DoD civilians and military retirees are funded by the government; and contractors pay \$75 per person. To participate you must have a Department of Transportation approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeve shirt or jacket, boots or shoes that cover the ankles, full-fingered gloves, and long pants. The course will start promptly at 8 a.m. and should last 5-6 hours. The instructor is Ralph Harris who can be reached at 772-4034, ext. 424. Everyone interested should call Keith Coates of Garrison Safety Office 876-3383.

## Cookbook fund-raiser

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, as part of its community projects program, is selling copies of its cookbook "Cooking with Comptrollers." Price is \$10 and proceeds go toward local charity in a joint effort with the Huntsville Flight. These books have more than 200 recipes and helpful cooking tips. For information call Becky Lake, building 5308, 955-0053; Kathy Buford, building 5308, 842-6289; Kim Jean, building 5300, 876-7208; or Lisa Lowry, building 5300, 876-1423.

## Aeronautical university

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center will begin its spring term Jan. 5. Classes offered include Operations Research, Logistics Management

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# Announcements

for Aviation/Aerospace, and Social Responsibility & Ethics in Management. The Embry-Riddle Huntsville Center offers fully accredited instruction at both graduate and undergraduate levels in Aviation/Aerospace and Technical Management fields. Deadline to register is Dec. 19. Call 876-9763 or visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222. The university has recently announced the addition of a new degree program to its line of graduate studies, the Master of Science in Management.

## Closings or delays

If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: radio — WAHR, 99.1FM; WDRM, 102FM; WEKR, 1240AM; WEUP, 1600 AM; WGSV, 1270AM; WJAB, 90.9FM; WLRH, 89.3FM; WRAB, 1380AM; WRSA, 97FM; WTKI, 1450AM; WVNN, 770AM; WWIC, 1050AM; WZYP, 104.3FM; television — WAAY (Channel 31); WAFF (Channel 48); WHNT (Channel 19). Three additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures. You can call 955-8445 to hear a recorded announcement or you can click the button for weather information on either the Team Redstone Internet site ([www.redstone.army.mil](http://www.redstone.army.mil)) or the AMCOM Portal Intranet site ([https://intranet3.redstone.army.mil:7443/pls/aprtl/aprtl\\_amcom\\_site.amcom\\_page](https://intranet3.redstone.army.mil:7443/pls/aprtl/aprtl_amcom_site.amcom_page))

## Christmas trees

All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees, are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area northeast of the Ammunition Supply Point area which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees should not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use. This area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. Travel will be limited to the single pasture trail along the east side of the open pastureland. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Extreme caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside of the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees should be cut from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by Dec. 24. The trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For more information and a location map, contact personnel at the Outdoor Recreation Office, building 5132, 876-4868.

## Record sale

WLRH Public Radio is having a "Great Record Sale" through Friday at the WLRH studios on John Wright Drive on the UAH campus. "Record collectors will have opportunities to find vinyl treasures in many categories, including classical, folk, Broadway, jazz, rock, pop, new age, opera, spoken word, children's and a category designated as 'anything goes,'" a prepared release said. "CDs and cassettes

will also be available." Most of the LPs will sell for \$2, with CDs priced at \$4. All proceeds will go to support the programming at WLRH, Alabama's first public radio station. For more information, call WLRH 895-9574.

## Master's degrees

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information meeting on its master of business administration program Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. at Calhoun Community College, conference room 101-E, 102 Wynn Drive. For more information call 800-672-7223, ext. 5026 or send an e-mail to [danielag@huizen-ga.nova.edu](mailto:danielag@huizen-ga.nova.edu).

## Astronomical society

Von Braun Astronomical Society astronomers Dr. Steve Sauerwein and Sandra Sherman will present "The Christmas Star" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Wernher Von Braun Planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. For non-members, admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Weather permitting, star party using the big VBAS telescopes will follow. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 961-7626.

## Equal opportunity course

AMCOM Equal Opportunity Office will hold an equal opportunity representative course and Consideration of Others facilitator trainers course Jan. 5-16 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Dec. 22. This is open to military and civilian employees. For more information, call SFC Vasquez 876-8648 or MSgt. Santos and SFC Weber 876-9224.

## Aerospace scholarship

The Air Force Association, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will present a \$1,000 scholarship to an Air Force Junior ROTC cadet, cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, dependent of active duty or retired Air Force personnel,

dependent of Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve personnel, or dependent of an active duty member of another service (Army, Navy, or Marine Corps). Applicants must pursue a full course load toward an aerospace technology associate degree at Calhoun Community College. This scholarship will be for the 2004-05 school year and will be broken into \$500 awards to the school for each semester attended. Candidates may apply until May 1. For more information, call Terry Roop (256) 230-0396 after 6 p.m. or e-mail at [TLRoop@charter.net](mailto:TLRoop@charter.net).

## Garden plot notification

Soldiers, retirees and DoD civilians possessing a garden plot on Redstone Arsenal are advised that on Dec. 15, Grounds Maintenance will prepare the garden for the upcoming planting season. Plant stands, fences, hoses, sprinklers, etc., must be removed by that date, or grounds maintenance will remove the items and place them in storage for approximately 30 days. Any item not claimed within 30 days will be forfeited. For more information regarding next year's planting season/plot assignment, call Claudia Scott 842-7144.

## Veterinary clinic

The Veterinary Treatment Facility will have an evening clinic Dec. 16 from 4-7 p.m. For more information, call 876-2441.

## Red Cross blood drives

Blood drives include: Dec. 11 – building 6263 from 8-noon and Ground-Based Midcourse Defense on Bradford Drive from 7-12:30; Dec. 12 – building 4505 7-12:30 and building 5681 7-noon; Dec. 19 – SMDC 8-12:30, Corps of Engineers 7-noon and NASA building 4316 8-1:30; Jan. 8 – building 5400 from 7-12:30; Jan. 15 – building 7613 and Sparkman Center

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Courtesy photo

## Depot award

Corpus Christi Army Depot received the Texas Future Workforce Award of Excellence at the seventh annual Texas Workforce Conference Nov. 19-21 in Houston. From left are Diane Rath, chairman of Texas Workforce Commission; Teresa Parish, chief of Corpus Christi Army Depot Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, accepting the award on behalf of the depot; and Work-Force 1 board member Mike Rendon.



Photo by Kim Mason

## *Senator visits*

From left Sen. Richard Shelby along with Patti Martin, PIF manager; Wes Patterson, strategic development and Jim Flinn, deputy to the commanding general, are briefed Friday by Jeff Carr, aviation program leader. Carr discussed the Prototype Integration Facility's involvement with the newly proposed Military Test and Integration Hub. PIF will utilize the Hub for aircraft integration efforts.

# Announcements

7-12:30, SMDC 8-12:30; Jan. 16 – NASA building 4316 8-1:30, Corps of Engineers 7-noon and Sparkman Center 7-12:30; Jan. 22 – building 4488 7-12:30; Jan. 23 – building 4545 7-12:30; and Jan. 30 SMDC 8-12:30.

## Santa's village

Santa's Village, 109 Gates Ave. downtown, has holiday hours Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 5-9 p.m. and will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Additional tour days include Dec. 22 and 23 from 5-9 p.m. Santa's Village will run through Dec. 28; and school group tours are available. In conjunction with the village activities, visitors can participate in the Santa Feasts Dec. 12 and 20. Sponsors this year include the Jurenko Foundation, News Channel 19, The Huntsville Times, Lite 96.9, Mayor Loret-

ta Spencer, Buffalo Rock, ERC, Century Automotive and Teledyne Brown Engineering. For more information or to volunteer, call 564-8100 or visit online at [www.earlyworks.com](http://www.earlyworks.com).

## Quarterly retirement ceremony

The Quarterly Post Retirement Ceremony for Redstone Arsenal's military retirees is scheduled Jan. 13 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. If you are interested in participating or for more information, call SFC Rodger Pettitt, the Garrison operations NCO, 876-2819 or 655-0705 by Jan. 6.

## Traffic disruptions

The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program project office construction project continues to expand their work locations, according to Richard Mathena, I3MP team leader of the Direc-

torate of Information Management. Construction crews will begin work on Hale Road west toward Software Engineering Directorate. This is a two-lane road and heavy equipment will be located in a blind area due to the curve in the road. Also, there will be times when the entire road may be closed temporarily for unloading manholes or maneuvering construction machinery. In the next few weeks work in these locations will cause traffic disruptions. Please take the necessary precautions when traveling these routes and stay alert. If you have any questions, call Richard Mathena 876-0020.

## Fiber optics courses

Aviation & Electronic Schools of America will present "Introduction to Fiber Optics" and "Advanced Fiber Optics" courses Jan. 5-30 in Huntsville. Price for

both courses is \$2,431, books \$99 and the certified fiber optic technician exam \$90. Total hours are 60 and credits 4. For more information or reservations, call Don Bradley 800-345-2742, ext. 228.

## Community ballet

Huntsville Ballet's 35th production of "The Nutcracker" is Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30, and Sunday at 2 at the Von Braun Center. Ticket prices are \$14 orchestra, \$12 loge, \$9 balcony; with a \$2 discount for seniors and students at any price level. Call Community Ballet at 539-0961 for more information or for group rates.

## Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesday from 9-5, Fridays and Thursday from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-12:30. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. The shop will be closed for the holidays Dec. 24 through Jan. 5 and reopen with new days and hours starting Jan. 6. The new shopping times will be Tuesdays 9-5, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-12:30. Appointments will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. For more information, call 881-6992.

## Gospel concert

A gospel Christmas concert, featuring Jamel Strong & Message along with the Majestic Mass Choir of Eagles Nest Ministries and others, will be held Saturday at 6 p.m. at Eagles Nest Ministries, 6831 Hollow Road in Huntsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 851-1788.

## Young artists

Child and Youth Services is hosting the Boys & Girls' Clubs of America's Fine Art Exhibit through Friday at building 3148 on Youth Center Road. Redstone B&GCA is among 3,300 clubs across the country searching for talented young artists with help from corporate sponsor L'Oreal. As a participant in the Fine Arts Exhibit program, the Redstone B&GCA may submit members' artwork in four age divisions and 10 categories including watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylic and collage. Selected winners' artwork will be submitted to the national competition in Atlanta. Forty national winners will then be announced and their work will be displayed at special events throughout the year and receive engraved plaques and certificates of participation. Encourage your child to participate, pursue their artistic talents and develop creative thinking. For details on this event or joining in the Redstone Boys & Girls' Clubs of America, call special events coordinator Miranda Brown 876-5437.

## ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS		CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?															
	POSITION TITLE							A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U				
AS OF DEC 05 03		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)																

THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT [WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL](http://WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL)

SCBK03270701	Supv Procurement Analyst	10-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-1102	14	14	79,663 - 103,564							X		X			X				
SCBK03490070	Lead Aerospace Engineer	10-Dec-03	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK03466332	Ops Research Analyst	15-Dec-03	CAD	GS-1515	14	14	79,663 - 103,564	X															
SCBK03501085	Supv Contract Spec	15-Dec-03	ACQ	NH-1102	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X		X		X		X	X							
SCBK03270830OC	Contract Specialist	31-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-1102	13	13	66,543 - 87,640	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK03259412OC	Land Arch, Arch, Civil Engr, Envi Engr, Mech Engr, Elec Engr, Chem Engr,	31-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-0807-0808-0810-0819-0830-0850-0893	13	13	67,413 - 87,640	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK03202370OC	Electrical Engineer	31-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-0850	13	13	67,413 - 87,640	X															
SCBK03202398OC	Engineering Technician	31-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-0802	12	12	56,690 - 73,697	X															
SCBK03257513OC	Civil Engr, Arch, Mech Engr, Elec Engr, Envi Engr	31-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-0810,0808,0830,0850,0819	13	13	67,413 - 87,640	X	X							X	X	X	X				
SCBK03254278OC	Civil Engr, Arch, Mech Engr, Elec Engr, Envi Engr	31-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-0810,0808,0830,0850,0819	12	12	53,225 - 72,112	X								X		X	X				
SCBK03197863OC	Safety and Occupational Health Spec	31-Dec-03	CofE Huntsville	GS-0018	11	11	47,266 - 61,494	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
MD-03-2653	Medical Technologist (VOS)	31-Dec-03	MEDCOM	GS-0644	7-9-10	11-12	31,546 - 72,746	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
MD-03-2673	Social Worker	31-Dec-03	MEDCOM	GS-0185	9-11	12	38,588 - 72,747	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
MD-03-2682	Counseling Psychologist	31-Dec-03	MEDCOM	GS-0180	9-11	12	38,588 - 72,747	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK03127239	Architect	2-Jan-04	CofE Huntsville	GS-0808	11	12	47,240 - 70,841	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK03506488	Lead Aerospace Engineer	15-Dec-04	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X				

THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT [WWW.USAJOB.OPS.MIL](http://WWW.USAJOB.OPS.MIL)

X-LW-04-5742-RD	Lead Aerospace Engineer	10-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	DB-861	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-SP-04-5794-RD	Log Mgmt Specialist	10-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	NH-0346	3	3	56,690 - 87,640	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-SP-04-5808-RD	Training Instructor (HD)	12-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	GS-1712	11	11	42,976 - 55,873	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-SP-04-5747-FL	Supv Contract Specialist	16-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	NH-1102	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-SP-04-5758-FL	Sys Support Specialist	16-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	GS-0301	15	15	93,705 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-LW-04-5777-RD	Lead Aerospace Engineer	19-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	DB-0861	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-LW-04-5782-RD	Librarian	22-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	DE-1410	3	3	43,050 - 73,697	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-SP-04-5773-FL	Supv General Engineer	26-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	NH-0801	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-LW-04-5779-RD	General Engineer	29-Dec-03	Office Sec of Army	DB-0801	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-SP-04-5797-RD	Supv Sys Acq Specialist	2-Jan-04	Office Sec of Army	NH-0301	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X-SP-04-5796-RD	Supv Plans & Cost Spec	2-Jan-04	Office Sec of Army	NH-0301	4	4	79,663 - 121,817	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)

A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
C - Compensably Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements)
F - All Federal Employees
H - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)
I - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.)
R - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.)
T - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (SF-50 documenting service required)
V - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).
U - All U.S. citizens
NOTE: If you are interested, carefully read the announcement for the official area of consideration, qualification requirements, and application procedures.
NOTE: The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e., Cashier, Food Service, Custodial, Bartender. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the web at <a href="http://www.redstonemwr.com">www.redstonemwr.com</a> , or you may telephone 876-7772.